

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Steve Horsfield, Executive Director, Simpson Housing Services, [612-455-0841](tel:612-455-0841) (office) or [612-363-8287](tel:612-363-8287) (cell)

Senta Leff, Executive Director, Minnesota Coalition for the Homeless, 651-645-7332 (office) or 651-428-9153 (cell)

Tonight: Homeless Memorial March and Service Remembers 203 Individuals Who Passed Away in 2018

Minneapolis -- Tonight's Homeless Memorial March and Service (**Thursday, December 20, 2018**) will bring together hundreds of community members to remember 98 homeless friends, 89 formerly homeless folks, and 16 advocates who passed away over the year. This is the highest number in years (the previously highest being 190). Of the individuals remembered, the average death age of homeless Minnesotans is 46.2. The average death age of formerly homeless individuals is 48.4.

"Tonight we have the sacred duty of marching in solidarity and memorializing the lives cut short by our ongoing housing crisis," said Steve Horsfield, executive director of Simpson Housing Services, "This is a humbling task -- remembering friends and neighbors who have passed over this last year, while experiencing homelessness. We also remember our comrades in the struggle -- those advocates who were committed to improving our systems and working toward safe and stable housing for everyone."

The silent march and vigil begins at Hennepin County Government Center at 5:00pm. Participants will walk South on Nicollet Avenue to attend the memorial service at Simpson United Methodist Church at 6:30pm.

EVENT DETAILS

WHAT: 34th Annual Homeless Memorial March & Services

Commemoration of homeless friends and advocates who passed away over the year. Names of the deceased are painted on signs and carried during a march and silent vigil from the Hennepin County Government Center to Simpson United Methodist Church (details below). The names are then read during the service, which is attended by hundreds and provides dignity for those who died without a memorial. More background [here](#).

WHEN: Thursday, December 20, 2018 | 5:00pm (march) and **6:30pm** (memorial service)

WHERE: Silent march begins at Hennepin County Government Center, continues south on Nicollet Ave. to **Simpson United Methodist Church [2740 1st Avenue South, Minneapolis](#)**. Service is at Simpson.

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